

## Orange County Natural Areas Inventory

### BREEZE ROAD HEARTLEAF RAVINE

**Site Number:** L04

**Size:** 7 acres

**Site Significance:** County

**USGS Quad:** Caldwell

**SIGNIFICANT FEATURES:** This is one of the county's four populations of Lewis' heartleaf (*Hexastylis lewisii*), a plant species state listed as significantly rare.

**NATURAL COMMUNITIES:** Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** The remnant woodland here that supports a population of Lewis' heartleaf has been selectively cut and is surrounded by agricultural development. The moist Iredell soil offers habitat for a rather unique forest made up of shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), white oak (*Q. alba*), post oak (*Q. stellata*), and loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). Several of the herb species are those often found in moist or saturated environments, including atamasco lily (*Zephyranthes atamasco*) and golden alexander (*Zizia aurea*). This is the most mesic habitat in the county where Lewis' heartleaf is known.

**MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION:** This site has no formal protection, but the landowner practices selective timbering. The present management of the woodland seems not to be harming the Lewis' heartleaf population.

**OWNERSHIP:** Private

**REFERENCES:** Sather, D. and S. Hall. 1988. Inventory of the Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitats of Orange County, North Carolina, Appendix B: Biological Documentation of Sites. N.C. Natural Heritage Program, DENR, Raleigh, NC.